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INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 KABUL 000436

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 02/02/2020
TAGS PREL, IR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN'S OUTLOOK ON IRAN: A KARZAI INSIDER'S
VIEW

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Classified By: D/Ambassador Ricciardone; Reasons (b) and (d)

1. (S) Summary: President Karzai's Chief of Staff and former Ambassador to Iran, Omar Daudzai, offered the Palace's outlook on Iran's role in

We Can Help Open the Door to Iran

2. (S) At a meeting within the GIROA with COS Daudzai, D/Amb. Ricciardone asked for Afghanistan's outlook on the anti-coalition Jundullah orgs

3. (S) D/Amb. Ricciardone posited that, while President Obama and Secretary Clinton had made clear the United States' willingness to discuss c

4. (S) Daudzai related that after the first and only time he was "summoned to the MFA" for a complaint on alleged GIROA support for Jundullah

Iranian People Dislike Foreigners, Except Americans

5. (S) Reflecting on his time in Tehran, Daudzai said he had reached two main conclusions: 1) "Common" Iranians hate foreigners, except for An

The Two Sides of Iranian Influence in Afghanistan

6. (S) Daudzai said Iran's influence in Afghanistan, like
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Pakistan's, has been both helpful and hurtful. (Last year, Daudzai had acknowledged that Iran paid limited amounts of money to the Palace only

7. (S) Daudzai said that two years ago when he raised with the Iranians their support for Afghan Taliban, they had flatly denied any involveme

8. (S) Daudzai said that on occasion, young Afghan males are allowed to cross into Iran, where they are recruited and trained before returning

9. (S) According to Daudzai, Iran grooms thousands of Afghan religious scholars. After completing their education in Iran, they return to Afgh

U.S.-Iranian Convergence of Interests is Complicated

10. (S) Daudzai opined that there could be room for indirect, but not direct, cooperation between Iran and the U.S. regarding Afghanistan. Irs